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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 6.

A Deserted House.

The Autocrat of the House of Reed will be without a Congress on his hands until tomorrow, and then he will meet only to adjourn himself for a further period of three days, unless he should possibly relent sufficiently to allow something in the way of action for relief of the Mississippi flood sufferers.

The fact that important public as well as business interests demand legislative consideration does not appear to cut the least figure in the situation. The reorganization of the Army, necessitated by the fortification of our coasts and new demands upon its service generally, will not be allowed to modify the current fit of naps. Nor will any other of the measures needed or demanded by the country. The people are taxed to maintain the body of men known as Members of Congress, but the latter might as well desert in a body and go home, as many already have done. They will not be allowed to do anything. The Autocrat will not have it so, and they may explain their resignation of constitutional rights and privileges into his hands in any way they please when their constituents cut up rough on the subject, as they are quite sure to do.

A general cry goes up from the East, begging for some consideration of the currency question. It will have no effect. Perhaps that is just as well. The country need not expect any intelligent American view of that question from the House of Reed, even if he were willing to turn it loose for the purpose. But about the "remedial legislation" demanded by the railway interests there may be a shadow of hope. Its exponents are not the kind of staff that easily is turned down. There is a possibility, to be sure, that he may be able to oppose his powerful bulk to the combined motive power of all the continental railway systems. Nobody can tell what the result will be until it is fully tried.

Peace or War.

Doubtless under Russian dictation the Sultan has addressed a note to Greece, demanding the withdrawal of the Greek troops from Crete. This may be considered as the Czar's counterplay to the proposition, believed to originate with England, to have the Turkish troops go first. At present the Russian influence appears to be the most obstructive factor in the peace problem; and her action may result in war all along the line. The only question is whether Nicholas is ready to try conclusions with the ancient enemy of his house.

As this journal has before remarked, Russia is the only European government not more or less dominated by the great financiers. It is in their power to shape the policies of most of the other great states. If, as we suspect, they are now in accord with the policy and program of Lord Salisbury, there will be a peaceable adjustment, outside of possible localized trouble between Greece and Turkey, in case Russia does not see fit to force a fight.

That contingency is among the possibilities of the situation, and then there would be such a war as modern history knows not the equal of.

Hanna and Weyer.

In a press interview, in Cleveland, on Sunday, Senator Hanna is reported as saying: "You cannot talk about Cuba. A spark might drop in ten minutes and precipitate a war. At this time, however, I consider Congressional action on the Cuban question impracticable."

What kind of a spark does Senator Hanna think "might drop in ten minutes"? If it is a spark of American manhood, or a spark of Christian indignation, and there is any way for it to reach the Congress naturally there will be an immediate explosion and action; but probably the Ohio statesman conceives that the forces of sugar and bonds have too shrewdly prepared for the extinguishment of any such spark, to render it likely that Senators and Members are in any danger of ignition.

In this connection the letter of Mr. O. E. Baker, commissioner of the London Times to Cuba, addressed to the New York World is interesting and important. He makes the condition of affairs on the island as plain as the words of an able, trained, and experienced mental observer, after two years' observation and study, can make them. He tells us how "Spain made Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Olney dance to the tune she piped," and that "if the willies of the Spanish minister are as successful in entrapping Mr. McKinley and Mr. Sherman, then good-bye to any hope for justice to American citizens or protection to American property in Cuba."

There is a grave question of state policy contained in the foregoing statement: Which is of the greater importance to our Government and people; the matter of justice to American citizens and protection of American property; or, the interests of British holders of Spanish bonds, and of the New York Sugar and other trusts, and the stock brokers? We feel sure that upon the decision of the Administration in this dilemma will rest the immediate Cuban policy of the nation.

Mr. Akor writes: "As for the foreigners resident in Cuba, they have but one feeling with regard to Weyer's methods of conducting the military operations. They consider Weyer and his actions as a reflex

of the worst barbarities of the middle ages, far more brutal, indeed, than many of the most severe means employed by the Holy Inquisition to attain its ends." He concludes his communication with these pertinent words: "If I may be permitted to give one word of advice to the people of this great country it is to leave America and the Turks to be dealt with by the European powers and attend to their own Armenia, that lies but a stone's throw from their own shores."

What have our "representatives" to say to this? Is there any American blood on the Republican side of the Senate? Is there anything within the ponderous bulk of the House of Reed that can be stirred by the fiendish butchery of prisoners and of helpless women and children in our own Armenia but a stone's throw from our shores?

Our Forest Policy.

Owing to widespread misunderstanding of the real aims and purposes of the friends of American forest preservation, the American Forestry Association has thought it advisable to issue an explanatory circular on the subject. This document reviews the present forest policy from its inception in the act of March 3, 1881, which provided that the Government should own and hold in perpetuity certain lands other than those needed for its immediate purposes or those set aside for parks. This action was based upon the perception that a forest cover on slopes and mountains must be maintained to regulate the flow of streams; to prevent erosion, and thereby to maintain favorable conditions in the plains below.

For a quarter of a century, successive Secretaries of the Interior and Commissioners of the Land Office have urged for legislative relief in view of the wholesale destruction of forests on the public domain by theft and fire; but their representations have gone unheeded. In 1887 the American Forestry Association prepared an elaborate measure, which, in modified form, came to be known as the Paddock bill, providing for the withdrawal of all timber lands on the public domain from entry or other disposal, setting the same aside as public forest reservations, and instituting a fully organized service in the Department of the Interior to take care of such forest reserves, protecting them against fire and theft, regulating their occupancy by prospectors, miners and herders, and permitting the cutting and sale of the timber under a system of licenses and under application of rational forestry methods.

The only tangible result of this reasonable proposition came in the shape of a clause inserted in an act to repeal timber culture laws, passed in the closing hours of the Fifty-first Congress. This clause, under which all the national forest reservations have been made, authorized the President to set apart and reserve as public forest reservations public lands wholly or in part bearing forests, whether of commercial value or not. Under this fragmentary law President Harrison and Cleveland have acted. In the absence of specific legislation the Secretaries of the Interior have construed the reservation of these lands as a withdrawal, not only from sale and entry, but from all use whatsoever. This was never the intention of the projectors of the forest reservations.

As might have been expected, this condition of affairs resulted in strong opposition in States where large areas were withdrawn from utilization, and the opposition was greatly increased by the further reservation of about twenty million acres last February. In consequence, the Senate adopted a clause in the sundry civil bill restoring these lands to the public domain. The House, in conference, modified this, but the bill itself failed to become a law, and the matter is still open.

The whole trouble appears to lie between the demand of selfish local interests, that they shall be allowed to continue in the work of plundering and destroying the remaining forest cover of the continent, without the slightest reference to conservation or reforestation, and the indifference or ignorance of committees and members, who will not consider and pass a reasonable and equitable measure, providing for the general reservation of what forests the Government has left, and for the utilization of their resources and products under reasonable and scientific regulations and restrictions.

The lesson of the great flood, now devastating the grand central valley of the continent, ought to bring the Congress and the country to their senses in relation to this vital question of national protection.

Thomas, the Jammer.

As a former leader of the opposition in the House of Representatives, the present Autocrat held strong views on the subject of parliamentary oppression by the Committee on Rules, and on the evils and dangers of legislation "jammed through" without Constitutional consideration. On November 2, 1893, from his place on the floor, he spoke as follows: "The idea that we are going to commence the discussion of the tariff bill at the very beginning of the next session, and have it put through the House without the country being heard on it, is perfectly absurd. It would not be wise, even if the gentlemen had the power to do so, for the suggestion that it is to go through the committee stages in November and then be rushed through the House at the beginning of the session of Congress, all the country with an increased horror and a larger dissatisfaction."

"An increased horror and a larger dissatisfaction" is good, and entirely descriptive of the opinion which the country entertains concerning, respectively, the all-absorbing Autocrat and the Dingy bill.

Standing for Civil Service Reform. Every true friend of civil service reform will be pleased and feel new encouragement in view of the action of the Columbia Typographical Union at its Sunday meeting. Nothing could be more evident than that the element of skilled labor in the country is quite as much interested in the movement to withdraw the public service from the evil influences of partisan politics under the old and obnoxious operation of the spoils system.

But it does not necessarily follow that organized labor would at once take the advanced and scientific position on the question that now appears to have been assumed by one of its chief and most-

telligent local exponents. We are heartily glad to see this evidence of good sense and appreciation of a high national effort of progress, and especially at a time when grave and revered Republican Senators can be found who would turn the country back to the scandals and corruptions of a detestable past.

The Columbia Union has done a good and we are sure, an acceptable thing, in holding up the hands of the President in his efforts to defend, maintain and perfect the merit system, the only conceivable one under which American boys and girls without wealth and political influence in the future can hope to enjoy the same opportunity to serve their country in its civil service as those have had in the past who enjoyed such advantages. This initial action comes almost as a benediction from Mr. McKinley had shown his faith by his works in appointing an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury a man who entered the department as a messenger, and in making a similar appointment in the State Department.

As The Times has constantly represented to its readers, the transition of a nation from a settled policy and a vast system to a condition of scientific and perfected reform and readjustment cannot be accomplished in a day, or without incidental abuses and individual hardships. But the principle of the civil service reform is fixed and unalterable in the wish and faith of the people. Its progress has been encouraging, if not always satisfactory in detail, and its perfection and final crystallization into a complete, harmonious and equitable system and practice shown to be feasible and in sight.

All elements of American society having the interests of good government at heart should heartily join in helping the President in connection with this particular task, which he is undertaking against an adverse partisan pressure that would overwhelm a man of less conscientious purpose and backbone.

An open letter from President Cisneros, of Cuba, to President McKinley, on the occasion of the latter's inauguration, is printed in the New York World of yesterday. In fine and forcible language it recites the sad story of Spanish wrong, oppression, barbarity, torture and butchery, and offers evidence of the complete organization of our sister republic, with a settled government, deserving recognition by ours. Perhaps that recognition may come before long. Who knows?

In spite of opposition, the resolution of Senator Allen, calling upon the President to interfere in behalf of Gen. Ruiz Rivera, passed the Senate yesterday. This is calculated to encourage the friends of humanity in and outside of that chamber. The tide of American indignation is rising. We shall see other results yet!

If we are to believe New York news paper reports, Senator Platt has consented to the appointment of the Hon. Theodore Roosevelt as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, but will greet its announcement with a vigorous kick, to preserve appearances before the machine.

THE RETROACTIVE CLAUSE.

Secretary Gage Anticipates Its Possible Adoption.

Secretary of the Treasury Gage yesterday sent out the following circular to the collectors and officers of customs: "Under the authority conferred upon the Secretary of the Treasury by section 249, Revised Statutes, chief officers of customs are hereby instructed to delay, until further orders, final liquidation of entries made at their respective ports of entry, and to withhold all entries for consumption, except those specified in the preceding paragraph, shall be stamped in red ink by the clerks respectively passing the same, under the direction of the collector."

"These directions shall not be applied, however, to any entries made after April 1, 1897, of merchandise which was purchased and directed, by the owner, to be shipped for import into the United States by any person, prior to April 1, 1897. "Hereafter all entries for consumption, except those specified in the preceding paragraph, shall be stamped in red ink by the clerks respectively passing the same, under the direction of the collector."

"Appraising officers will, whenever practicable, retain such samples of imported merchandise as may be necessary to determine any question hereafter arising relative to the proper identification and classification for duty of such merchandise."

FOUR VICTIMS OF GAS.

Men Entered an Empty Beer Vat and Three Are Dead.

Montreal, April 5.—Shortly before noon today Joseph Webb, an employee of Dore's Brewery, went into an empty vat for the purpose of cleaning it out. He neglected to take the proper precautions and the carbonic gas, which is always present in newly-emptied tanks, overcame him. John Murphy, who went to rescue his fellow-workman, was also overcome by the gas. A third employee, named Farnham, in attempting to rescue his two companions, was likewise overcome. Still another employee, named McCabby, rushed into the dangerous receptacle, but was taken out before the deadly gas got in its full force upon him. The other three men, however, could not be resuscitated and all are dead.

Two Men Boiled to Death.

Kingston, N. Y., April 5.—A new engine in the Lawrence Cement Mill, at Eddyville, broke while being tested this morning. The force of escaping steam pinned the doors shut, and Augustus Carter and Law were literally cooked to death. Law was foreman in the Wright Machine Works, at Newburg, where the engine was made.

Clark Howell's New Office.

Atlanta, Ga., April 5.—At a meeting of the directors of the Constitution Publishing Company today, Mr. Clark Howell was elected as editor of the Constitution, Mr. W. A. Remphill being elected president and business manager of the company.

About the English Position.

(From the New York Tribune.) Said an English officer at Canea the other day to a Russian officer: "I should like to sink this island, and wash the whole crew of Creteans, Turks, and Greeks." "Yes," replied the Russian, "and when the island came up again, you would like to plant the British flag on the top."

And Then Sit on Him.

(From the Omaha World-Herald.) The Indians are that Jan Macaren's church will attempt to seat him upon "The Bonnie Briar Bush."

CAPITOL GOSSIP.

C. H. Harman, of New York, who is president of the Columbia Manganese Company, whose mines are in Augusta county, Va., is to go before the Senate Finance Committee and urge the placing of a duty on manganese ores. Manganese has never before been a duty on manganese. Here, before it has come to this country from abroad as a by-product, and at such a low price, says President Harman, as to shut out competition by American manganese.

About a year ago a Baltimore company, organized by John K. Cowan and Henry A. Parr, secured control of rich manganese mines on the isthmus of Panama and have developed and are now operating them, supplying a very large part of the demand for manganese.

Manganese is largely used in the manufacture of steel, glass, phosphoric acids, dyes, and paints. Of course, the little Virginia industry must be "protected," and the price of all these products raised in order to restore prosperity.

Representative Pearson's effort goes to protect a couple of small and abandoned mines in the Carolinas. At the expense of all the consumers of the United States.

The great Democratic victory reported from Cincinnati may be considered as fully launching John R. McLean's boom for a great and widespread reorganization. That Chairman Hanna's skill is going to be taxed to the utmost to hold his seat in the Senate. The election turns over the great machinery of Cincinnati to the Democratic organization, and seems to give promise that Hamilton county may elect the Democratic legislature this fall. If that is the result McLean cannot be beaten.

The Cincinnati vote is also regarded as a forerunner of what may be expected in Chicago tomorrow, and is believed by prominent Democrats to mark the beginning of a great and widespread reorganization from last fall's vast Republican and gold majorities.

Cincinnati went Republican last fall by 20,000 majority. The early dispatches last night reported that the city had gone Democratic by 8,000 to 10,000.

From all the information that can be gathered from the Republican steering committee it is apparent that the Republican Senators claim to have won a bloodless victory. They assert that the committees of the Senate will be reorganized, but not enough to hurt. The present understanding, as given out by Chairman Allen to confidential friends, is that the Democrats and Populists will offer no objection to a reorganization that will place the new Senators on some committees. The only contest will be over the Finance Committee, the Appropriations Committee, and a great and widespread reorganization of the first importance. Senator Allison's plan is to take care of the new Senators on uncontested committees and await a more favorable opportunity before undertaking to take control of the big committees.

This opportunity, the Senator hopes, will come when the Democrats in a resolution, or after Kentucky or some other State sends a Republican to the Senate. This is the Republican plan. Members of the Democratic steering committee say there will be no factions opposition to an arrangement that will give the new Republican Senators places, but they have not agreed and shall not consent to any change in the political status of the great committees.

The Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee, accompanied by their wives, left yesterday for a visit to the Gettysburg battlefield. They will return today.

CHICAGO BANK FAILURE.

Globe Savings Concern Did Not Open Its Doors.

Chicago, April 5.—The Globe Savings Bank did not open its doors this morning. Later the Chicago Title and Trust Company was appointed receiver. The capital stock of the bank is \$200,000.

Most of the bank stock is held by Eastern capitalists. By permission of the State auditor, and at the suggestion of Examiner Jones, who went over the books a short time ago, an assessment of 50 per cent was levied on the stock of the bank.

This levy was objected to on the part of some of the stockholders residing in New Hampshire, and they have appointed a committee to come to Chicago and investigate the cause of the assessment. The committee will also advise as to the legality of the assessments.

W. Berry Ervin, assistant cashier of the bank, says a much smaller assessment would have been all that was required, but the larger one was made in order to guarantee a larger working capital. This, he says, will make it possible for the Globe bank to compete with the larger institutions.

The announcement Saturday of a protest being made among stockholders against payment of the assessment, led to the suspension. Publicity served to start a run on Saturday, and demands aggregating \$500,000 were made by depositors before the day closed.

This run, together with the appointment of a committee of Nathan, N. H., stockholders to test the legality of the assessment, led to a meeting of officers of the bank yesterday, when it was decided to close. The application for a receiver was made to Judge Tuley, of the circuit court, this morning by Charles E. Churchill, a director, and cashier of the bank.

Cashier Churchill, in an interview, said: "The assessment was made by order of the State bank examiner, who thought that some of our assets were not properly valued. He objected to items amounting to \$103,324, and ordered the same charged up to profit and loss, and an assessment of \$100,000 made to cover the deficiency."

"According to our last statement our assets are over \$739,000, and our liabilities about \$840,000, and consist of one capital stock of \$200,000; paid up; savings deposits, \$335,000; and checking deposits, \$125,000. There is no doubt of our ability to pay in full. But it may take some time."

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR UNION.

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the District.

The executive committee of the District of Columbia Christian Endeavor Union held a meeting at the Calvary Baptist Sunday schoolhouse last night. Mr. Miles M. Shand presided. Reports of committees and the treasurer were read, which showed that the Christian Endeavorers are making rapid progress in the District.

A pleasant program was rendered after the business was over.

A Hint to the President.

(From the New York Herald.) President McKinley is going to run away from Washington for a brief escape to the Dolphina to secure a rest from his important duties of the office.

CROWDED THE WHITE HOUSE.

People Anxious to See the President Before His Departure.

Another big crowd tried to see President McKinley yesterday. The published announcement that the President would go away on Wednesday brought scores of anxious office-seekers, who desired a word with Mr. McKinley before he left town. At noon, when those "other than Senators and Representatives" are supposed to have their innings, according to the rules and regulations governing calls at the White House, the reception corridors outside the President's door were crowded with both men and women. It was a patient crowd. In Secretary Porter's room, however, there were a number of Congressmen who were not so patient. Many of them had waited for several hours for an opportunity to see the President. The only satisfaction they received was the information that "Mr. McKinley is busy with the Forestry Commission." Many of them went away very much disgruntled, promising to come back some other time.

The conference with the members of the forestry commission was an extended one. It was in reference to the order issued by President Cleveland just before his term of office expired, setting aside more than 21,000,000 acres of land in Northwestern States for national forests. Protests against Mr. Cleveland's action have been made by Senators and Representatives from the Northwest, and Mr. McKinley has been asked to revoke the order. The members of the commission represented to the President yesterday that certain of the lands included in Mr. Cleveland's order obtained valuable mineral deposits, and should be opened to entry, while others on some of the lands would be subjected to great hardship and injustice through reclamation.

The commission also saw Secretary Elias on the same subject. It is confidently predicted that President McKinley has selected the successor of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee as chief general at Havana. His name is Gen. John S. Mosby, of Virginia, for this very important post. Mosby has long been an ardent Republican, and it is the hope of the President that the ex-Confederate will give up his former allegiance in this office as Gen. Fitzhugh Lee has been.

President McKinley will probably send a message to Congress today, recommending immediate relief for the sufferers of the flood now devastating the Mississippi Valley. It is expected that at least \$150,000 will be appropriated for this purpose. The previous appropriation of \$250,000 is not available, and will have to be used in repaying the broken levees.

All yesterday there was a continued exchange of telegrams between the President, Secretary Alger, and the governors of several flooded States. An Arkansas delegation, which included Senator Jones and Representatives McKee, Brandegee, and McCullough, saw Mr. McKinley early in the morning, and presented to him a statement of the great damage that has been done by the flood, especially in their own State.

The President informed the committee that he was fully cognizant of the necessity for speedy legislation, and his message to this end will be terse and to the point. Senator Jones informed the President that he thought \$150,000 would be sufficient to relieve the suffering, and that of this amount Arkansas would need at least \$50,000. Senator Jones said that a similar appropriation was made in 1890, when the floods were not near so disastrous as they are at the present time. He said that he had seen the Arkansas departure Chief Clerk Proden was closeted with Mr. McKinley for some time, and the final draft of the message was then prepared. The amount of the proposed appropriation can only be furnished, but will be amply sufficient to cover existing needs. It seems to be the prevailing impression in financial circles in New York that there will be no appointment in the immediate future of a successor to Conrad N. Jordan, whose term as Assistant United States Treasurer expires on April 20. So far as the bankers are aware, there is not a single prominent candidate for the place in the field.

The bond required is \$800,000, and that fact frightens those who would apply for the place, not it appears that there is strong possibility of Mr. Jordan's reappointment, as he is being urged by his friends to become an applicant. The deputy assistant treasurer, Maurice L. Muhlenmann, who is well qualified to fill the position, refuses to allow his name to be used unless Mr. Jordan declines the reappointment.

Mr. Jordan is a gold Democrat, and it is understood that he voted the Republican ticket at the last election. Hence he has the endorsement of all the Democrats in Wall street, as well as many of the Republicans. Senator Mason has not forgotten the way to the White House, and saw the President again in reference to the appointment of W. M. Mann for the chairmanship of the southern district of Illinois. Senators Chandler and Gallinger accompanied by the entire New Hampshire Congressional delegation, urged the appointment of Col. John G. Crawford, of Manchester, N. H., as minister to the republic of Colombia. Senator Nelson wanted ex-Representative Russell, of Minnesota, appointed to an auditor's position in the Treasury Department.

Representative Smith, of Michigan, urged the President to revoke an order of Mr. Cleveland's abolishing several general pension agencies in that State. Representative Chandler, of Idaho, and John E. Rulo, a leading Republican of Knoxville, Tenn., appointed as consul to Calcutta.

Representative C. W. Stone, of Pennsylvania, saw the President in reference to the appointment of Dr. Harts as minister to Denmark. Dr. Harts is strongly backed by both Senators Quay and Penrose, and will in all probability get the nomination. The question of the Arizona governorship was again brought to the attention of the President, when ex-Delaware Murphy called at the White House to urge the appointment of Myron T. McCall. Mr. Murphy said that McCall was a very well qualified to fill the position and his appointment would meet with the approval of the majority of the citizens of the Territory. Mr. McCall's most formidable opponent is Bart Duffan.

Others who are candidates for the position are Senator T. Shubert, of H. Goodrich, and E. A. F. Penrose. The latter is a brother of Senator Penrose, of Pennsylvania, who was also a visitor at the White House to speak a good word for his relative.

Representative Lacy, of Iowa, wanted Gen. Patterson, of Tennessee, appointed consul to Kingston, Jamaica. Col. William A. Pledger, a prominent colored politician of Atlanta, Ga., is also a candidate for this position. Col. Pledger is warmly endorsed by Col. Buck, and will, in all probability, secure the appointment.

Ex-Representative John B. Robinson's announcement that he is in the race for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Navy has had the effect of arousing his friends to action. It has also lessened the chances of Henry J. Raymond, W. C. Elliott and the other aspirant candidates. It is not improbable now that Theodore Roosevelt will walk away with the coveted prize. Robinson was at the White House and had an extended conference with President McKinley. The latter, however, gave no intimation whom he intended to appoint to the position.

Since Robinson is again in the contest it is said that Senators Quay, Penrose, ex-Senator Cameron, and the faction represented by Hon. C. L. Magee, of Pittsburgh, are all united in asking for his appointment. In conversation with a Times reporter Mr. Robinson said:

"Instead of withdrawing, I have only become more constant for the position. My friends are determined, and I have the whole State of Pennsylvania back of me."

President McKinley, accompanied by Mrs. McKinley, Secretary and Mrs. Porter, and a physician, will leave here tomorrow morning for a brief vacation. The party will take an ocean sail on the Dolphin as far as the Cape. It is more than probable that the President will spend a short time at Old Point Comfort, although this has not been definitely decided upon. Mr. McKinley feels that the rest is necessary, owing to the great strain he has been under ever since his nomination. He will leave business and official cares behind until he returns to the White House on Friday in time for the regular Cabinet meeting.

Secretary Porter has determined that unless the rush at the White House diminishes after the President's return, that rules will be necessary to abate the nuisance. Secretary Porter estimates that over 20,000 office-seekers have called to see Mr. McKinley since his inauguration. "The President is not able to stand a severe strain of seeing all these people," said Secretary Porter yesterday afternoon. "And some steps may be necessary to limit the number of callers."

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CISNEROS TO MCKINLEY.

Appeal of the President of the Republic of Cuba.

Executive Headquarters, Republic of Cuba, Cabañas Mountains, State of Camaguey, March 22.—President Cisneros today commended with his cabinet, and at the close of the meeting made public a copy of his open letter to President McKinley, dated "Executive Headquarters, Capital of Cuba, Cabañas, March 4, 1897."

In it President Cisneros said: "Mr. President: Today you become the Chief Executive of the greatest, freest, most progressive nation that the sunlight of heaven ever shone upon. Today the organized and maintained Republic of Cuba, citizens and soldiers, from the highest to the lowest, congratulate you and pray that you will give us strength and wisdom to continue the progress and increase the prosperity of the American people."

"Cuba, while called by Spain the 'pearl of the sea,' has always looked to the American Republic as if she longed for the title of 'ever faithful State.'"

"I add you in the name of Cuba and of my people to extend early consideration to what is known in the United States as the 'Cuban question.'"

"We have in your beautiful capital a legislation as yet unrecognized officially by your Government. That legislation, composed of men we trust and honor, is in a position to inform the American Government of such details as it may desire regarding the several points of this communication."

"In the first place, I beg you to consider that the island of Cuba rightfully belongs to the people of the Western Hemisphere. Its geographical location precludes the possibility of its being considered a part of any other continent."

"Secondly, its people are essentially American in all their hopes and aspirations. Thirdly, the island and its people will continue to grow more and stronger American day by day and from year to year."

"Were it possible for Spain to exterminate the present population and replace the soil with her loyal subjects, I doubt her ability to control the island for a certain period. The sons of Spaniards coming in after generations would be Cubans as devoted to their little island and with as much detestation for its enslaver as are the Cubans today."

"Do as she may, Spain is destined to lose Cuba eventually. Could she hope for success in the present war it would only be a matter of a few years when there would be another rebellion."

"But for Spain the present struggle is hopeless. The success attending our army has been a surprise even to us. 'Every power of Cuba has risen against the tyrannical power of Spain.'"

"The whole world will acknowledge that Cuba has ample excuse for rebellion. In two years we have accomplished much more than we did in the entire last war, which continued ten years."

"The civil branch of the government is well established, and its workings are daily becoming more thoughtful and complete."

"The entire province of Santiago, with the exception of several large towns, is entirely under our control. In more than 200 cities, towns and villages Spain has a soldier, and has apparently relinquished all claims to that territory. She no longer has civil representatives in most of the districts, while there is not one town in the entire province but has its prefects, or assistant prefects, appointed by the Republic of Cuba."

"Spain collects today but one-eighth of the annual